

Legislative Testimony
HB 5630 AAC The Establishment Of Licensure For An Advanced
Dental Hygiene Practitioner
Public Health Committee
Monday, March 16, 2009
Dr. Gary Opin

As president of the Connecticut State Society of Orthodontists, I would like to comment about the orthodontists portion as it is written in HB5630, specifically Section 6 (8).

As many of you may know, to be considered an orthodontist, requires a minimum of an additional two to three years of full time graduate training in an accredited orthodontic training program after four years of dental school education. Additionally, to maintain and upgrade the orthodontist's skills requires the orthodontists to be students for life, by mandatory attendance and approved postgraduate seminars and courses. Therefore, it is our Society's concern, that someone with no dental degree, much less a required full time orthodontic education should be allowed to diagnose and prevent potential orthodontic problems, lacking all of the education that the orthodontist possesses. Intervention of any kind in the growing child's mouth is fraught with danger. In fact, this is a complicated subject and any intervention, no matter how well meaning, might create irreversible problems.

The State of Connecticut is blessed by having one of the largest ratios of orthodontists to patient populations in the country. Services are available by qualified orthodontists to treat patients no matter what their economic situation. Therefore, we believe it would not be in the population's best interest to allow untrained people with no dental degree, to get involved in the cranio-facial complex as there is a potential to rendering irreversible harm

Thank you for allowing me to testify before you in relation to this bill.

If I can be of any further if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

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